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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,072	04/02/2004	Earl F. Crandall	033859-007	2679
21839	7590	03/24/2006	EXAMINER	
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC (INCLUDING BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS) POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			ABRAMS, NEIL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/817,072

Applicant(s)

CRANDALL ET AL.

Examiner

Neil Abrams

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Figure 2B, channels 21, 21, seem incorrect, should they face inward. Figure 5 numerals 140, 310, 304 as appropriate should be added.

1. In addition to Replacement Sheets containing the corrected drawing figure(s), applicant is required to submit a marked-up copy of each Replacement Sheet including annotations indicating the changes made to the previous version. The marked-up copy must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Sheets" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings. See 37 CFR 1.121(d)(1). Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing and marked-up copy will result in the abandonment of the application.
2. Abstract, use of cables should be discussed.
3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The claims are based on unclear and non-enabling disclosure.
4. The drawings and specification are confusing and the nature of the overall assembly cannot be properly understood for reasons below. In drawings numerals should be consistently used to enable correlation between figures. In this case, each figures 1, 3, 5-7 all use different numerals with no consistency between figures. How the different parts interrelate is not properly disclosed. For example where in figure 1 are parts 140? Where in figure 5 is part 300? Is 208 same as part 304? Where in

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assembled device would the pcb 110, the parts 140 be present? How are connectors 140 (200) assembled to enclosure 4. What is enclosed by parts 4 and 6? Is the ballast(pcb) enclosed? the lamp? These drawings shown an assortment of parts with no clear disclosure of their manners of assembly. Fig 1 is to an assembly but it is confusing and difficult to correlate with other figs. Part 3 appears as a lamp not a diffuser, part 4 is confusingly shown. Suggested that a "new figure" is necessary to show an assembly of all main parts of the invention with proper numeral use and consistency with numerals in other figures.

5. Claims 1-14 objected to, in claim 1, term "interconnector" used, in claims 6-8, etc, term "connector" is used for same feature. Claim 8, "mail" is incorrect. Correction of these matters is required.

6. Claims 4, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4, "enclosure... tabs" seems incorrect, no such feature seen, "said pair of openings" has no antecedent basis. Claim 9 is confusing expressed and just what is referred to is unclear.

7. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13 are rejected under 35 USC 102 a anticipated by Abbott or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abbott taken in view of Engle and Hartshorn.

8. Abbott includes a system with a florescent lamp strip, figures 1, 4 a ballast 40, a connector 12 (46a,b) at each end of the strip, the connectors also having slots for

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receipt of lamp pins and a track 14 readable as an enclosure. The connectors at each end 12, 12 are readable as male or female since each one includes male and female contacts 46a, 46b.

While above is adequate the following is applied in case Abbott enclosure feature becomes at issue. Engle at 14 and Hartshorn, figures 1, 14, 15, etc show enclosures fixed to end connectors, the enclosures fully enclosing the assemblies. Obvious to use such feature in Abbott to protect the lamp and to provide a lens ^{and} with the connectors, 12, 12, fixed to the enclosure. Terms male, female do not define over 12, 12 of Abbott each of which has male and female parts 46b, 46a. In addition as alternative, obvious to use male, female connectors in view of Engle at 22, 52. This would provide greater safety (enclosure of ~~live~~ ^{live} contacts).

9. For claims 2, 3, the Hartshorn teachings with U-shaped channel 140 cover 145 (figure 14) are applied. Claims 5, 6, Abbott body 18 is seen to surround the contacts in a manner equivalent to a molded body.

10. Claims 7, 8, Keyed feature shown by Engle at 52, 34, 22, 36. Obvious to use this aspect in Abbott to insure correct connector use at each housing and claims 10, 13 met by typical extension cord used for appliances. Obvious to use same in Abbott since standard product.

11. Claims 11, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 above, ^{in either manner} and further in view of Young and ~~Abbott~~ ^{Serbin}.

12. Abbott lacks claims 11, 12 connector's shapes and claim 14, jacket crimp. Young at 25, 27 discloses claimed shapes and ~~Abbott~~ ^{Serbin} includes contact crimp ^{tabs} at ~~22~~ ²².

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Obvious to use these in Abbott for connector polarization and to join the contacts to wires. *38, 54, etc.*

13. Geis note fig 3 parts 300,400 latched to cover

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Neil Abrams at telephone number 571-272-2089

Neil Abrams
NEIL ABRAMS
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322